

JUST AS BAD AS THE SHOT GUN.

The state of Connecticut, in three presidential elections out of the last four, has given the votes of her six electors to the democratic candidates—once for Tilden and twice for Grover Cleveland. During the same span of sixteen years she has, in most of the congressional elections, chosen the democratic candidates in three out of her four districts. Why, then, one may pertinently ask, has it happened that during the same time, since 1876, she has not chosen a single democratic United States Senator, and has chosen but two since the republican party was organized in 1855? Why, also, has it happened that except once, since 1876, all the state officers have been republicans, although usually in a minority of the votes? The answer to these questions introduces a system so fantastic, so out of joint with every just theory of popular self-government, so atrociously unjust in its practical working that one hardly knows whether to condemn most sharply the republican audacity which perpetrates it or the democratic cowardice which has thus far endured it.

In the old days the Connecticut town was the primal unit of representation. This idea, rooted deeply in the history, traditions and habits of Puritan Connecticut, was grafted into the present State Constitution when our ancestors drew it up in the convention of 1818. They gave each town the representation in the lower house of the legislature which it had before and to each new town one representative. By later amendment this provision equalizing the towns in the legislature has not been substantially changed. But the senate, which that convention left a popular body elected by the vote of the whole state, was by amendment in 1828 changed so as to be, like the house, a "territorial" and "town" body rather than a representative and popular one. The "town idea" was thus made prominent and dominant in both houses.

The system was not so strictly unfair in the early part of the century, when the towns were much more nearly equal than they are now in population and wealth. The unfairness has come about with the growth of the commercial cities. In 1818 there were but five cities in Connecticut, containing a little less than 10 per cent of the total population of the state. Now the twelve cities of Connecticut contain nearly one-half of Connecticut's population. Yet their representation as towns remains almost exactly what it was seventy years ago. They have but twenty-four representatives out of the 253 in the legislative lower house. These twelve cities gave at the last election a democratic plurality of about 5,000 votes, which had to waste itself on less than a tenth part of the legislature.

A candidate for a state office must have a clear majority over all, the election otherwise going to the misrepresentative legislature. Not once since the republican party was organized have the democrats had a legislative governor. The republicans have had legislative governors in 1878 (Andrews), in 1884 (Harrison), in 1886 (Lounsbury), in 1888 (Bulkeley), and they claim one this year, although their candidate, Merwin, is 3,686 behind Morris, 7,351 behind a clear majority over all, and Morris, on the face of the returns, has 26 votes over all. It was practically also by the legislature that Marshall Jewell was put in over James E. English in 1871. Along with the state officer goes also all the appointing power and patronage.

As to United States Senators, the democrats have had but two by legislative choice since 1855, although they have had majorities on pluralities for their state ticket in twelve state elections out of the last nineteen.

The republicans have also a complete check on a democratic governor, when the party is so fortunate as to elect one. Indeed, a democratic legislature in the state, no matter what the popular vote is, has come to be looked upon as a genuine phenomenon.

Some of the anomalies in representation are amazing. The town of New Haven, in 1888, cast 17,827 votes. It chose two representatives. The little farm town of Union cast 118 votes. It has also two representatives. In that election a voter in Union cast a ballot which was the equivalent of about 150 votes in New Haven. The latter town has a tax list of \$50,739,536; Union has a tax list of \$126,542. Each has two members of the legislature. This is the relation of taxation to representation in Connecticut. In the election of 1888 selected here on account of the fulness of the vote—sixty small towns, with a total vote of 11,118,51, sent 76 representatives, or about three-fourths of the lower house? The town of Hartford, with 12,331 votes, sent two, and New Haven, with 17,827 votes, sent also two. The twelve Connecticut cities, with 72,033 votes, sent 24 representatives, and the four rural counties, with 33,669 votes, sent 109 representatives. The twelve cities had more than double the population of the four counties, yet sent to the lower house only about

two-ninths of the number sent by those counties. Ten of these cities had tax lists amounting to \$176,390,907, and ten small towns sending the same number of representatives had a total tax list of \$3,069,690. The town of New Haven always sends a democratic senator who represents about 18,000 votes, Toland county sends usually two republican senators who represent about 5,300 votes.

The figures cited may be supplemented by a few others which were compiled a few days ago by Prof Hubert A. Newton, the well known mathematician of Yale College. His tables show that the 134 democrats in the state legislature now represent towns and districts which cast last November 195,840 votes, while 141 republican members who last Wednesday elected Senator Platt represent only 73,144 votes. The change from this system can come legally in only two ways. One is by constitutional amendment, which requires a majority vote in the lower house of one legislature, a two-thirds vote in both houses at the session of the next legislature two years after, and, finally, a ratification by the people. The republicans have this passage double fettered and hold both keys. Over and over again they have defeated the reform, and, while posing this year as a "blind" they may let an amendment through the first state, they will take pains that it can get no further two years hence. The other and only possible way out is a constitutional convention, which convention can be called by joint resolution as easily as a simple bill can be put through both legislative houses. Such a resolution will be introduced by the democrats at Hartford this week.

SHILOH'S CURE will immediately relieve Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis. Foshay & Mason, agents.

Clocks at cost at W. F. Read's.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT there will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Old Fellows Hall Building Association, held at their office in Albany, Oregon, on Monday, the 9th day of March, 1891, at the hour of 7 o'clock p. m. of said day for the purpose of electing seven directors, to serve for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before said meeting. This, the 27th day of Feb., 1891.

W. C. TWEDDALE, President. E. A. PARKER, Secretary.

ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO the legal voters of school district No 5, Linn county, Oregon, that the regular annual school meeting of said school district will be held on the first Monday, being the 2nd day of March, 1891, at the hour of 7 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the court house in the city of Albany, Linn county, Oregon, in said district, for the purpose of hearing the reports of the directors and clerk of said district, and to levy a tax for the support of the schools for the ensuing year. Also for the purpose of paying interest on the bonds of said school district and the seasonal installment of the principal of said school bonds, due and payable June 15th, 1891, and for the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Dated this 16th day of February, A. D., 1891.

C. G. BURKHART, District Clerk. J. K. WEATHERFORD, Chairman Board of Directors.

SCHOOL ELECTION NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the regular annual school election in school district No 5, Linn county, Oregon, will be held at the Central school building, in said school district on Monday, March 9th, 1891, for the purpose of electing one director, to serve three years, and one clerk to serve one year. Said election to begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of said day and continue until 6 o'clock p. m. of said day. Dated February 25th, 1891.

C. G. BURKHART, District clerk. J. K. WEATHERFORD, Chairman Board of Directors.

STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Albany Street Railway Co will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, 1891, at the hour of 7 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the office of the secretary of said company, the same being at the real estate office of Burkhardt & Keeney, on First street, in Albany, Oregon, for the purpose of electing seven directors to serve for the term of one year next ensuing from said meeting, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and to transact such other business as may legally come before said meeting. Dated February 19th, 1891.

C. G. BURKHART, Secretary.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.—Contractors and builders desiring to bid on the construction of the new United Presbyterian church building, to be erected at the site of the old building, will find the plans and specifications for the same, at the store of Stewart & Sox. The date of opening bids will be announced hereafter.

ANNUAL MEETING.—Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Albany Building Association will be held at the office of the Albany Electric Light Co., on Broadway street, in Albany, Oregon, on Monday, March 16 1891, at 7:30 p. m. for the election of directors, and such other business as may come before the meeting. Dated Feb 20, 1891. N. H. ALLEN, Secretary. W. C. TWEDDALE, President.

MONEY TO LOAN.—In small and large amounts, from six months to five years, on good Albany and Linn county real estate. Call on or address W. E. McPherson, First St., Albany, Or.

L. E. BLAIN'S COLUMN.

TOWNSEND & WILSON, Real Estate & Loan Brokers. Office.—BALTIMORE BRICK. Doing a general insurance business. Parties wishing insurance will do well to see them. AGENTS FOR: Acton Insurance Company, Incorporated charter perpetual. Losses paid in 70 yrs \$16,000. Assets, \$7,780,715.65. Guardian Ins. Company, of London, England Established 1811. Capital, \$5,000,000. Total fire losses paid over \$8,000,000. American Fire Ins. Company, of Philadelphia, Organized 1810. Cash assets, \$7,642,000. Losses paid, \$19,500,000. Columbia Fire & Marine Ins. Company, of Portland, Or. Assets, \$200,000.00. This is one of Oregon's best companies.

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